

c) a biologically active fragment of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, and

d) an immunogenic fragment of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1.

5. (Twice Amended) An isolated and purified polynucleotide [which hybridizes under stringent wash conditions of 0.1 x saline sodium citrate and 0.5% sodium dodecyl sulfate at room temperature to the polynucleotide of claim 3] of claim 3 encoding a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1.

6. (Reiterated) An isolated and purified polynucleotide which is completely complementary to the polynucleotide of claim 3.

7. (Twice Amended) An isolated and purified polynucleotide comprising [the] a polynucleotide sequence [of SEQ ID NO:2] selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2,

b) a naturally occurring polynucleotide sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2,

c) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to a),

d) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to b), and

e) an RNA equivalent of a)-d).

9. (Reiterated) An isolated and purified polynucleotide which is completely complementary to the polynucleotide of claim 7.

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10. (Reiterated) An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 3.

11. (Reiterated) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 10.

12. (Twice Amended) A method for producing a polypeptide [comprising the amino